

## REMARKS

Claims 18-34 are currently pending. Claims 18, 26, and 34 are amended. The above amendments and the following remarks are considered by Applicants to overcome the rejections raised by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants request the reconsideration and allowance of claims 18-34.

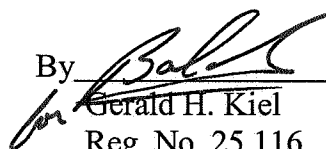
Claim 18 is objected to for containing an informality. Claim 18 is amended to overcome the cited objection. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection to claim 18.

Claims 18-32 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 18, 26, and 34 are amended to more clearly recite the features of the claimed invention. In view of these amendments, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 18-32 and 34.

In view of the above amendments and remarks presented, it is respectfully requested that all of the claims be reconsidered and allowed. If the Examiner believes that additional issues need to be resolved before this application can be passed to issue, the undersigned invites the Examiner to contact him at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

By

 Reg. No. 50,900

Gerald H. Kiel

Reg. No. 25,116

REED SMITH LLP

599 Lexington Avenue

29<sup>th</sup> Floor

New York, NY 10022-7650

(212) 521-5400

Attorney for Applicants